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1 1. A method comprising:  
2 negatively biasing a spatial light modulator; and  
3 reversing the bias.

1 2. The method of claim 1 including biasing a top  
2 plate and a pixel electrode.

1 3. The method of claim 2 including biasing said top  
2 plate to a negative voltage.

1 4. The method of claim 3 including maintaining said  
2 pixel electrode at a positive voltage.

1 5. The method of claim 4 including biasing said  
2 pixel electrode across its full dynamic range.

1 6. The method of claim 1 including alternately  
2 biasing the top plate negatively and positively.

1 7. A spatial light modulator comprising:  
2 a top plate;  
3 a liquid crystal layer;  
4 a pixel electrode, said top plate and said pixel  
5 electrode sandwiching said liquid crystal layer; and  
a drive circuit to apply positive and negative bias  
potentials to one of said electrode and said top plate.

1        8.    The spatial light modulator of claim 7 including  
2    a drive circuit to apply a negative bias potential to said  
3    top plate.

1        9.    The spatial modulator of claim 7 wherein said  
2    spatial light modulator is a liquid crystal over silicon  
3    spatial light modulator.

1        10.   The spatial light modulator of claim 7 wherein  
2    said drive circuit applies positive and negative bias  
3    potentials in alternating frames.

1        11.   The spatial light modulator of claim 8 wherein  
2    said top plate is formed of indium tin oxide.

1        12.   A method comprising:  
2                applying a positive bias to a spatial light  
3    modulator in a negative frame; and  
4                applying a negative bias to a spatial light  
5    modulator during a positive frame to reduce the magnitude  
6    of the positive voltage that is necessary to bias the  
7    spatial light modulator.

1        13. The method of claim 12 including biasing a top  
2 plate and a pixel electrode.

1        14. The method of claim 13 including biasing said top  
2 plate to a negative voltage.

1        15. The method of claim 14 including maintaining said  
2 pixel electrode at a positive voltage.